

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A clamp ~~(1)~~ for gripping cables ~~(2)~~ issuing from an electric connector ~~(3)~~; the clamp comprising two jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ movable with respect to each other between a parted open position and a closed position gripping said cables ~~(2)~~; and fastening means ~~(24)~~ for fitting the clamp ~~(1)~~ to an insulating casing ~~(4)~~ of said electric connector ~~(3)~~; retaining means ~~(49)~~ being provided to keep said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ in said closed position; characterized in that said retaining means ~~(49)~~ are formed in one piece with said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by comprising a hinge ~~(23)~~ enabling said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ to rotate between said open position and said closed position about a hinge axis (C); and elastic parting means ~~(30)~~ interposed between said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~, spaced apart from said hinge ~~(23)~~, and exerting elastic thrust on said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ to push the jaws into said open position.

3. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that said hinge ~~(23)~~ comprises elastically deformable portions ~~(24)~~ forming part of said fastening means ~~(24)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, characterized in that said elastic parting means (30) are formed in one piece with said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that said elastic parting means ~~(30)~~ and said hinge ~~(23)~~ together define two elastically deformable rings ~~(33)~~ coaxial with each other and spaced apart along said hinge axis (C); said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ projecting from said rings ~~(33)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that each said ring (33) is symmetrical with respect to a mid-plane of the clamp (4) containing said hinge axis (C).

7. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that said hinge (23) comprises, in each said ring (33), a relative arc-shaped portion (24) defining a circular seat (26) having an opening (28) formed in an intermediate position between said jaws (21, 22).

8. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that said elastic parting means (30) comprise, for each said ring (33), a relative pair of arc-shaped branches (34) joined at a tip (35).

9. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that said tip (35) faces away from said hinge (23).

10. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing~~ Claims 1, characterized in that said retaining means (49) comprise a click-on connecting device (49).

11. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that said retaining means (49) comprise at least one hook (50) integral with one of said jaws (21), and at least one corresponding retaining seat (55) formed in the other of said jaws (22) and engaged by said hook (50) in said closed position.

12. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 11, characterized in that said jaws (21, 22) comprise respective pairs of lateral arms (37, 38), and respective intermediate portions (40, 41) facing each other, parallel to said hinge axis (C), and for gripping said cables (2); said retaining means (49) comprising two said hooks (50) located on one of said jaws (21), at opposite ends of the relative intermediate portion (40), and two corresponding retaining seats (55) formed in the other of said jaws (22), at opposite ends of the relative intermediate portion (41).

13. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that at least one of said intermediate portions ~~(40, 41)~~ has a number of grooves ~~(47)~~ perpendicular to said hinge axis (C).

14. (Currently Amended) A clamp as claimed in Claim 12 ~~or 13~~, characterized in that at least one of said intermediate portions ~~(40)~~ comprises a tooth ~~(44)~~ parallel to said hinge axis (C), and the other of said intermediate portions ~~(41)~~ comprises an elongated recess ~~(46)~~ engaged by said tooth ~~(44)~~ in said closed position.

15. (Currently Amended) An electric connector ~~(3)~~ comprising:

- an insulating casing ~~(4)~~,
- a number of cables ~~(2)~~ issuing from said insulating casing ~~(4)~~, and
- a clamp ~~(1)~~ for gripping said cables ~~(2)~~ and fitted to said insulating casing ~~(4)~~;

characterized in that said clamp ~~(1)~~ is as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing~~ Claims 15.

16. (Currently Amended) An electric connector as claimed in Claim 15, characterized by comprising hinge means ~~(17)~~ for fitting said clamp ~~(1)~~ to said insulating casing ~~(4)~~ in rotary manner.

17. (Currently Amended) An electric connector as claimed in Claim 16, characterized in that said insulating casing ~~(4)~~ comprises reference means ~~(19)~~ engaged at least partly by a portion ~~(35)~~ of said clamp ~~(1)~~, to keep the clamp ~~(1)~~ in a fixed angular position with respect to said insulating casing ~~(4)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) An electric connector as claimed in Claim 17, characterized in that said clamp ~~(1)~~ comprises elastic parting means ~~(30)~~ interposed between said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ and exerting elastic thrust on said jaws ~~(21, 22)~~ to push the jaws into said open position; said reference means ~~(19)~~ comprising at least one reference seat ~~(19)~~ engaged by said elastic parting means ~~(30)~~.